

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NOS. 2006-137-C, 2006-138-C and 2006-139-C - ORDER NO. 2006-342

JUNE 8, 2006

IN RE:	Docket No. 2006-137-C – Petition of Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC for Arbitration of Certain Terms and Conditions of Proposed Agreement with Chesnee Telephone Company, Inc. Concerning Interconnection Under the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.	)	ORDER APPOINTING HEARING OFFICER
	and	)	
	Docket No. 2006-138-C – Petition of Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC for Arbitration of Certain Terms and Conditions of Proposed Agreement with West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative Concerning Interconnection Under the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.	)	
	and	)	
	Docket No. 2006-139-C – Petition of Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC for Arbitration of Certain Terms and Conditions of Proposed Agreement with Lockhart Telephone Company Concerning Interconnection Under the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Commission's Motion to appoint Joseph M. Melchers, Esquire,

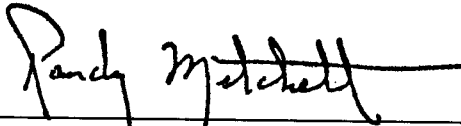
Chief Counsel, to serve as a hearing officer in the present dockets regarding the petitions of Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC for arbitration of interconnection agreements with Chesnee Telephone Company, Inc., West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, and Lockhart Telephone Company. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2005). The Motion is granted.

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.

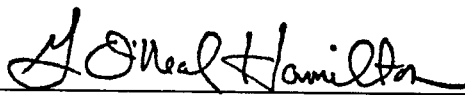
We find that Joseph M. Melchers meets the required criteria for appointment as a hearing officer, and we therefore appoint Joseph M. Melchers as hearing officer in the present cases. As hearing officer in the proceedings, we direct Mr. Melchers to rule on any procedural matters in the cases up to the time that a hearing may be held.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)